

# Times

## CALENDAR



All events are held at the Old Town Triangle Center unless otherwise designated. Meetings are open to all members.

### TRIANGLE EVENTS

**July 14, 7:00 p.m.**

OTTA Board Meeting

**July 20, 7:00 p.m.**

Neighborhood Improvements Meeting

**July 21, 7:00 p.m.**

HD/PZ Meeting

**July 23, 7:00 p.m.**

CAPS Meeting



### OPENINGS

**July 1 – July 31**

*The Art of Claire Rosean*

No formal opening

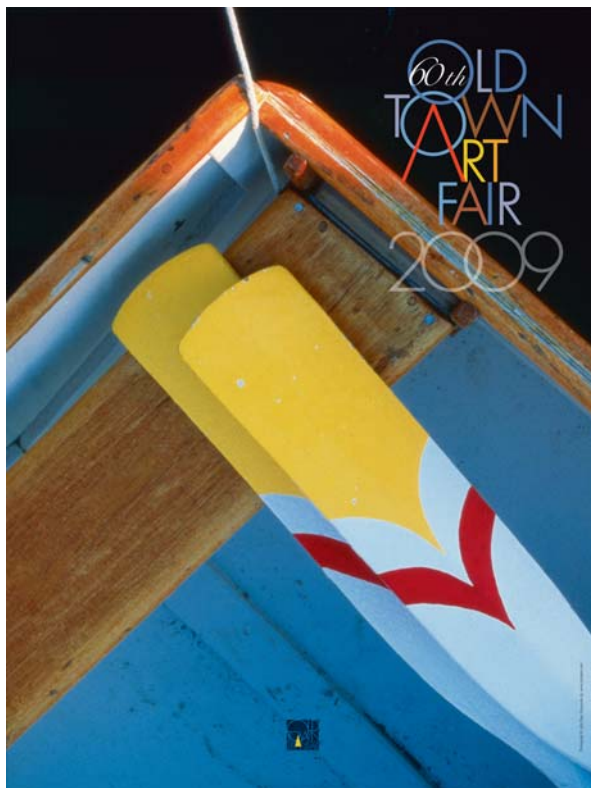
**August 2, 2:00-5:00 p.m.**

*Brother Nature: The Comparative*

*Images of Three Brothers:*


*Andy (In Memoriam), Doug, and Mike*

By Mike Barret Kolasinski



FERN BOMCHILL DAVIS

This issue is dedicated to the 60th Old Town Art Fair, from the reception at Whole Foods on Huron to the Thank

You Party at the Triangle Center and a host of activities in between. Friends and neighbors gathered at each event and celebrated sixty years of fine art, neighborhood pride, and the spirit of volunteerism. If you attended any or all of these activities, the photographs will reinforce your memories. If you were unable to participate, you can take a vicarious pleasure in what you missed. We thank everyone who made this fair possible. Have a wonderful summer. 

## COMMITTEE REPORTS


## Check it out

The OTTA Times with color photos—online at [oldtowntriangle.com](http://oldtowntriangle.com)

### ART FAIR

CHRIS BEER, GENERAL CHAIR

**WHOLE FOODS PREVIEW** Whole Foods graciously offered to allow a few artists to show a sampling of their work on the Wednesday before the fair. About ten artists responded and drew an appreciative audience to their work. The Old Town cookbook, *A Taste of Our Old Town*, was displayed, along with the 2009 Art Fair poster and literature about the organization. The Chair and Vice-Chair were on hand to greet visitors and talk about the activities going on in connection with the fair: the 260 exhibiting artists, the Children's Corner, the Music Stage, and the First Sight Friday Night Party. We are looking forward to repeating the experience in 2010.

**FIRST SIGHT FRIDAY NIGHT** Seventy artists participated in the Silent Auction for this event which previews the art fair to take place on the next two days. The party-goers were treated to a glimpse of the works that would be shown at the fair and were allowed to bid on their favorites. The party was called *Ship Ahoy*, following the theme on the 60th Art Fair poster image, *Sunnyside Up* by artist John Peer. Steven Graham, from *Perennial Restaurant* created a special Ship Ahoy martini for the event and Erich Steerner, also of *Perennial* acted as emcee. Guests munched happily on hors d'oeuvres from Catering/Chocolate, listened to the lively music of Andrew Pratt, and placed bids on their favorite pieces of art—all in the lovely ambience of the New Leaf Studio and Garden. To use  **2**

**from→p1** an old phrase “A good time was had by all”.

**OLD TOWN ART FAIR** Saturday morning's rain showers did not dampen the spirits of our artists, volunteers and vendors. Armed with brightly colored ponchos and umbrellas, we greeted fair patrons with a smile. Mother Nature got her act together around 2pm on Saturday, when we were blessed with beautiful sunshine for the remainder of the weekend. Within minutes of the skies clearing, our streets were flooded with art lovers. I heard so many compliments on the fair—from the high quality of art and the charm of the neighborhood to the lively music at the soundstage and the delightful craft projects in our Children's Corner—and I am so proud of our neighborhood for hosting another fantastic Old Town Art Fair. I was touched by how many artists told me that they were honored to be selected as exhibitors in our fair and that they consider our fair to be one of the finest in the country. I was inspired by our loyal volunteers who donate their time year after year, rain or shine. Thank you to all of our exhibitors, sponsors, vendors, patrons, entertainers, and volunteers—you made the 60th Old Town Art Fair a great success!

**WE THANK YOU SO MUCH** Rain did not keep faithful art fair volunteers from gathering at the Triangle Center on June 19 to celebrate another job well done. No matter that we had to move the tables and the band inside, nothing could put a damper on the spirit and enthusiasm of the friends and neighbors who made the whole fair possible. The baby back ribs, brats, sausag-

es, and chicken supplied by Pete Rose did not suffer at all from being served indoors; nor did the wonderful salads and sides. Dancers, young and younger, moved to the beat of Bill Brichta and his lively group of musicians. And then, it was all over but the memory of a job well done—very well done, indeed.

So many of you admired this year's poster, **Sunnyside Up** by artist **John Peer**. Sadly, we must inform you that John passed away on July 2 from complications following open heart surgery. His wife wanted you to know how proud he was to have been selected as the poster artist for our fair, and how pleased he was of the final image. He said that it was an honor to be asked to do the poster for one of the nation's largest and best fine art festivals. Though his work is featured in galleries, museums, hotels, and corporate headquarters throughout the country, his wife asked that he be remembered as a kind and gentle man with a quick sense of humor who was loved by all who knew him.

## NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS

Neighbor **Corinne Svoboda** reports that Chris Gagnon of CDOT's bike program has responded to the neighborhood's many requests and had two new bike racks installed near Nookies and the Willow Pocket Park. We are grateful for these racks, and hope that Mr. Gagnon will reassess our need for more bike racks at Willow by visiting the site again this summer—especially on week-ends. Corinne

adds that Joe McCarthy of the Bureau of Forestry has been instrumental in having a Swamp White Oak Tree planted on the Menomonee side of Marge's Still. Thank you, Joe.

## MEMBERSHIP

MICHAEL WARNICK, CHAIRMAN

Once again we are asking you to help us go green by opting to read our monthly newsletter online rather than receive a hard copy in the mail. Many of you have responded, but if you've missed the message, all you have to do is contact the office, [www.oldtowntriangle.com](http://www.oldtowntriangle.com) and sign up for e-delivery. You will receive an e-mail attachment when the most recent newsletter is available to view. The online version is always available about a week before hard copies are printed, and all photographs are shown in four-color.

## CAPS

SHIRLEY BAUGHER, LIAISON

Some of you may have missed the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) booth at the Old Town Art Fair. This group is a dedicated team of neighborhood volunteers who are specially trained in emergency response procedures and tactics. Officer Chris Schenk of the 18th District is the contact person for this program. If you find yourself in need of emergency assistance, or would like more information about the program, please contact Officer Schenk at 312-742-5778. **T**



## FROM THE ALDERMAN'S OFFICE

**BLUE CART RECYCLING HAS COME TO OLD TOWN** Carts were delivered in front of houses during the third week in June. Alderman Daley explained that the carts were left in front because most people do not have addresses in the back. It was also easier for crews to determine the number of units in a building from the front. You should

move your blue cart to the area where the city garbage carts are kept. If you have curb side pick-up, keep the cart with the other carts. If you have alley pick-up, move your cart to the alley.

Once you begin recycling, you may find that you do not need as many black garbage carts. If you would like to have a cart or two removed, or if you would like additional blue carts, please call or e-mail the Alderman's **→p6**

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**Old Town Triangle Association**  
Bounded by Clark Street, North Avenue,  
and the ghost of Ogden Avenue

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### OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday—10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday—10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please feel free to contact Administrators  
Shirley Baugher or Leslie Wolfe at the office  
during those hours.

### OFFICERS

FERN BOMCHILL DAVIS, President  
PHILIP GRAFF, First Vice-President  
CHRISTINA BEER, Second Vice-President  
MICHAEL WARNICK, Secretary  
MARTHA CONNOLLY, Treasurer

### DIRECTORS

MATT BEER  
DEBBIE DAY  
ALICE HUFF  
JEFF PINES  
EMILY ROSE  
DIRK VOS

Whatever you do, don't miss the July show in the Triangle Gallery featuring the paintings and drawings of **Clare Rosean**. Clare describes her work as "art that's fun to look at", and she is right. At first glance, and from a distance, you might think that her pieces are bland and uninteresting. You would be wrong. Her edgy style and witty approach to art produce works that are fun, sophisticated, and utterly contemporary. ¶ Rosean works primarily with ball point pen or colored pencil, though she has also completed a good many oil paintings. She wants to apply fine art to everyday items, such as stationery and greeting cards. A look at her work shows her affinity for book illustration.



JULY

## eastern art spaces

Clare Rosean



AUGUST

## brother nature

Mike Barret Kolinski

In August, **Mike Barret Kolinski** will bring his show, *Brother Nature—The Comparative Images of Three Brothers: Andy (in memoriam), Doug, and Mike Barret Kolinski*. Of his show, Mike writes: ¶ Ten years ago, on the night of September 30, just before midnight, a drunk driver killed Andy Kolinski, one of three brothers with a strong love of nature. Andy was an avid outdoors person, enjoying bicycling, canoeing, and the occasional ski trip. Throughout these adventures, he constantly had his camera at his side, shooting slides with an SLR 35mm body outfitted with numerous lenses and filters to capture the scenery around him. ¶ As the other two brothers, Doug and Mike, sorted through his work, a common visual treatment of their natural world came to light, It became apparent



that the three siblings had a similar, passionate way of seeing the beauty of the landscape around them. Expressing this love through photography and pastel painting in their show entitled *Brother Nature*, the brothers hope to convey the emotions that bond brothers and to become visual activists for nature. ¶ The exhibit will open with an Artists' Reception on Sunday, August 2, 2009 at the Old Town Triangle Center, 1763 N. North Park Avenue, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. In Andy's memory, a portion of the proceeds from items sold will be donated to AAIM, Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists, a local organization which dedicates itself to helping families survive the traumatic, life-changing effects of the loss of a loved one through the careless act of a drunk driver. ¶

## old town art school summer session

Old Town Art School Summer Sessions began June 23, 2009, and run through August 29. Class schedules are available at the Triangle Center and online at [old-towntriangle.com](http://old-towntriangle.com)



WELL, HERE'S YOUR OPPORTUNITY



## FIRST SIGHT FRIDAY NIGHT *Ship Ahoy*

*Co-chair Shirley introducing Erich of Perennial, Steve the Ship Ahoy martini man, first ladies of the fair, Emily and Chris with first taste, the music men, co-chair Paige with friends and helpers, co-chair Jacqui and husband Keith, art hanger extraordinaire.*



*First Sight patrons viewing silent auction 2-D hanging art in the front room of A New Leaf Studios and Gardens, perusing 3-D art in the back room, and mingling throughout before the final bidding.*



all photos by Bob Dowey



## 60TH OLD TOWN ART FAIR



*The heart of the fair: the chiefs; the exhibitors' committee; the art, of course; and the artists*

## OTHER VENUES



*Food court; Childrens' Corner; Music Stage; and*



*winding through the fair—the Gallery of Gardens*



all photos by Bob Dowey



office and staff will make the necessary arrangements. The number of carts (blue or black) at every residence is flexible. Since trial and error may dictate some changes, Alderman Daley will work with neighbors to make the adjustments that best satisfies their needs.

Although the Department of Streets and Sanitation attempted to deliver information packets to all buildings in the ward, some residents or buildings might have been missed. If you did not receive a packet, you may get the information by logging on to the Alderman's website, [ward43@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ward43@cityofchicago.org) and pressing the Recycling icon on the left. If you have further questions, please call the Alderman's office, 773-327-9111, and staff will be happy to help you.

**ADVERTISING FLYERS ARE PROHIBITED** There has been a glut of advertising flyers taped onto light poles recently. These flyers are

considered litter, and they are illegal. Streets and Sanitation has started a complaint process against businesses and organizations that use this method of advertising. The Alderman and her staff have taken down hundreds of these flyers in the past few weeks, and they encourage you to remove them whenever you see them.

**SUMMER TRACK PROGRAM** The City has scheduled a summer track program for kids nine through fourteen. The 43rd Ward program started on Tuesday, July 11 at 4:30 p.m. and will end on August 15 with an Olympic-style Track Meet featuring runners, jumpers, and hurlers. Practices will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 3:00 p.m. at the Alcott School's Drummond Place Field, 2625 N. Orchard under the direction of Coach Ally Broeren. Sponsors include World Sport Chicago and Friends of Track and Field. **T**



**Rocco's Café and Pizzeria** has opened at the old Ranalli's site on Lincoln Avenue. Manager **Gwen Bry** writes that **Rocco's** is a full-service Italian restaurant that seats 210 inside and 165 on the patio. Their menu offers pizzas, both thin crust and double dough, pastas, salads, appetizers, sandwiches and desserts. They have two full bars with 16 different beers on top. Hours are Monday – Friday 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 a.m.; Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 a.m.; and Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 midnight. Stop by and sample this new version of an Old Town favorite.

Once again, the **Church of the Three Crosses** is offering free outdoor music concerts this summer. The concerts are held in the park amphitheater at the corner of Wisconsin and Sedgwick. The first took place on June 20 and featured a classical collaboration of violins and cello with Mina Zikri, conductor of the Oistrach Symphony Orchestra. The second is scheduled for July 18 at 7:00 p.m. and stars the **Whiskey Hollow Bluegrass Band**, a traditional bluegrass and country music group. On August 22, the **Singleman Affair**, a psychedelic folk singer, will perform. These events are a great opportunity for neighbors to get together, experience an evening of fun music, and revel in the pure enjoyment of summer in Old Town.

**The Midwest Buddhist Temple** will hold its **54th Annual Ginza Holiday**

**on August 7, 8, and 9.** The festival, an Old Town favorite, is held at the Temple site, 435 W. Menomonee Street. Flown in from Tokyo for the event, the Waza craftsmen will demonstrate their generations-old skills, meet with festival goers, and sell their works. Jewelry, kimonos, anime, and origami pieces will also be available for sale.

Traditional Japanese cuisine will be offered during the three days, featuring the item for which Old Town neighbors wait all year long: chicken Teriyaki. Also on the menu are udon (Japanese cold noodles), sushi, edamame, and grilled corn on the cob. A favorite dessert offering is kintoki, a Japanese snow cone topped with sweet azuki beans. Japanese beer will also be available.

The festival is not all food, drink, and crafts, however. Many traditional Japanese dance troops will perform, joined by martial arts demonstrations, and exhibitions of Japanese self-defense tactics by Aikido, Judo, and Karate schools. There will also be Kendo matches (Japanese fencing) to entertain the crowds. Inside the temple, the great hall will be filled with demonstrations of bonsai, ikebana (flower arranging), kamingyo (paper dolls), calligraphy, brush painting, silk flowers, and a haiku contest. The chapel will be open for visitation.

New this year will be a Saturday evening performance by Yoko Noge and the Jazz me Blues Band. Yoko's music is a combination of Japanese folk music and Chicago blues and is

played on electric piano, shamisen, and horn.

A donation of \$4 is requested for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens. Children under 12, when accompanied by an adult, are not asked to donate. Hours are Friday: 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.; Saturday, 11:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.; and Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information, visit the website at [www.midwestbuddhisttemple.org](http://www.midwestbuddhisttemple.org)

**Summer Safety.** Every year about this time, we admonish neighbors to take extra precautions about their personal safety and their homes. This year, the admonition is particularly important. In these harsh economic times, incidences of burglary, robbery, and petty theft have become increasingly common. On June 22, two offenders were arrested by the 18th District police for armed robbery. There were two separate incidents on this date: one in the 600 block of West Willow at about 10:30 p.m.; and the other in the 1600 block of North Mohawk about 9:30 p.m. In both incidents, a hand gun was drawn and money demanded. There were no injuries, and property was recovered, as well as the handgun. Both offenders were taken into custody, positively identified by the victims, and charged accordingly.

In the past week, thieves climbed a neighbor's fence in the early morning hours, got into the garage, locked the connecting door between the garage and the house, and stole the couple's Cadillac. In yet another inci-

dent that occurred late in the evening, burglars went over a backyard fence, through a basement window, and up to a second-floor residence. They put a number of valuable items in a black garbage bag: laptop, jewelry, camera, and other electronic equipment and attempted to leave when they heard the police siren. A neighbor who had seen them enter called police. They left the bag of valuables on the ground

and a 42-inch television on the upper deck; so nothing was taken. The owner is in the process of having the entire building made burglar-proof.

The 18th District Police officers ask all residents to be alert, be smart, and be safe. Report any suspicious persons or activity by calling 911, and above all, attend your local CAPS meetings. The meeting for Beat 1814 is held on the fourth Thursday

of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Triangle Building.

Another friendly warning. Summer seems to be the season for overflowing garbage cans—which is an invitation to vermin, especially rats. Neighbors have reported a few sightings recently. So, be sure the lids of your refuse containers are tightly closed and do not leave plastic bags of garbage out. **T**

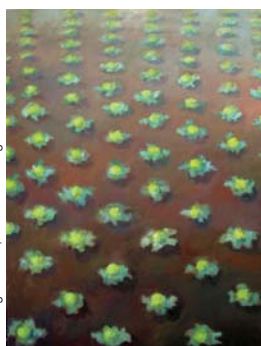
It is no secret that Old Town loves its gardens. Indeed, the neighborhood started life as a garden—albeit a vegetable garden—in the mid-nineteenth century, when German immigrants living in the factory area west of Clark Street near the Chicago River, pushed north. Before they built houses, they turned the dried-up swampland that was to become Old Town into cow pastures and truck gardens for growing potatoes, cabbages, and celery. They christened their garden-community “The Cabbage Patch”, and the name stuck, even after they had physically moved in and built the first balloon-frame houses that became known as “the Chicago style”. No doubt, a few flowers found their way into the rows of vegetables once the families settled in.

Move ahead a hundred years. The neighborhood had grown and changed. There were no more cabbage patches and no cow pastures. But there were gardens. During World War II, neighbors turned the space on the southwest corner of Wells and Eugenie into a victory garden where patriotic residents grew tomatoes, beans, peas, and whatever else had been made scarce by rationing and food shortages. The victory garden remained a community effort for a number of years until the property was sold for commercial development. As late as 1955, however, before the construction of Americana Towers, Old Town farmers continued to plant on Wells Street. The program book for the 1955 Old Town Holiday states that Louis S. Forti of 1636 N. Wells Street won second place for best vegetable garden in the Garden Walk; Sam Rizzuto of 1622 N. Sedgwick placed first. We don’t know what they grew. After the west side of Wells went commercial, our urban farmers moved over to the east side and dug in Old Town dirt there until they were, once again, displaced by “progress”.

But planting instincts are strong in Old Town. Deprived of their community gardens, residents stuck their hoes and spades into the little spaces in front and back of their homes and in window boxes on their decks. An unknown resident wrote in 1953, “A box of pansies is a botanic wonderland to a man with only one south window. No one can appreciate the charm of a bed of lilies of the valley more than the man who has no sun at all. When it rains, we are not only grateful for the moisture, but know that the soot will be washed from the leaves of our pampered darlings. The angleworm is our treasured pet.”



Cabbage Patch, Norman Baugher



2005, Bob Dowey

In 1953, we awarded prizes to doorway gardens, flower box gardens, backyard gardens, and enclosed patio gardens (won, incidentally by developer Daniel Crilly for his enclosed Crilly Court patio).

Not all Old Town gardens are found at ground level. When a real horticulturist is restricted to a strip twenty feet by nine feet on a fourth story porch s/he rises (pun intended) to the challenge. More than forty years ago, June and Al Howard were faced with just such a dilemma on the top floor of the Crilly apartments (now the North Park Condominiums). Al planned and planted his narrow porch, which had the entire Chicago skyline for its background, and the result was unbelievable. He used vines: bougainvillea, clematis, passion flower, and a climbing Peace Rose, to screen the south end from the hot midday sun. On the east side, he placed a long box of white Cascade petunias; and a step above them, a row of pink geraniums. All along the floor were tubs filled with roses. The real show-stoppers were two small Japanese umbrellas whose two-foot stems were actually stephanotis plants to which the Howards grafted hoyas. The leaves of the hoyas spread over the tops of the umbrellas, dropping their white blossoms through the ribs and over the edges. Amid the plants were June and Al’s collection of objets d’art, including two magnificent Louis Sullivan screens.

The Howards have been gone for many years, but their concept of a garden in the sky lives on in the fourth floor aerie of Betsy and Norman Zimmerman. Like June and Al, the Zimmermans



Norman Baugher

have transformed their North Park Condominium deck into an urban Eden. Pots of lavender evoke images of Provence. Pink geraniums rise up from clusters of petunias and are surrounded by white impatiens and pale green coleus. Wild grasses provide a dramatic vertical accent to lantana, verbena, salvia, daisies, and hysop in ornamental clay pots. Ivy and lobe- ➔p8

**POST Script**  
BY SHIRLEY BAUGHER

from → p7

lia cascade from window boxes. Pots of basil, tarragon, rosemary, and cilantro perfume the air. Down the way, Tom Lydon is happily cultivating tomatoes in his window boxes.

Across the courtyard, tucked into a corner of the Baugher's deck rose bushes grow beside a gardenia plant and an oleander tree. Masks of Incan gods glower over a night-blooming jasmine, and huge containers turn the rest of the space into a kitchen herb garden. All survive happily in Ethel's shade, Ethel (named for movie star Ethel Barrymore) being the beautiful autumn flame maple planted and named by Carolyn Blackmon a quarter century ago.

Over on Menomonee and Orleans Streets, the horticultural legerdemain of Lucy Wojtas and Sophia Bross so captivated an editor from *Better Homes and Gardens*, who took the Garden Walk during this past Art Fair, that she contacted them about doing a feature on their respective gardens for an upcoming issue of the magazine.

There were forty-three gardens listed on the Garden Walk of the 60th Old Town Art Fair—there were just twelve in 1953 (every garden won a prize). We've gone from simple



Norman Baugher



Norman Baugher

boxes of pansies and plots of zinnias to displays of jasmine, lavender, gardenias, and hibiscus. And whether twelve or forty-three, we still walk past and are awed by what has been done to effect these Triangle Babylons:

past the rhododendrons, azaleas, heather, hollies, climbing hydrangeas, passion vines, tree peonies, lilies, and roses; past fountains, stone cupids, and earthenware urns; past trellises and gazebos; and we experience the timeless pleasure expressed by a nineteenth century poet:

*A garden is a lovesome thing, God wot!  
Rose plot, fringed pool, ferned grot—  
The veriest school of peace.  
And yet the fool contends that God is not—  
Not God! In gardens when the eve is cool?  
Nay, but I have a sign;  
'Tis very sure God walks in mine.*

THOMAS EDWARD BROWN (1830-1897) *MY GARDEN*